Words and their Fulfilment

It was a morning when Shri Maharaj was perhaps feeling his physical weakness a little more than usual: one could ~~feel~~ notice the inexorable effects of the illness on the physical body irrespective of the indomitable spirit which totally rejects the body. He looked frail.

He sat in his usual place, quite silent, almost immobile, totally oblivious of the physical pain which must certainly have been incredibly intense. Then he started talking quietly, very softly. One had to concentrate a great deal to catch his words.

What you see, said Shri Maharaj, as my presence as phenomena means my absence phenomenally as noumenon. Noumenally, I can have neither presence nor absence because both are concepts. Presence is the concept which turns the unicity of the Absolute into the duality of the relative. Unmanifested, I am the potentiality which becomes the actual in manifestation.

I wonder, Shri Maharaj continued, if these words really convey anything to you or are they merely words?! I don't doubt your sincerity: you have come here - many of you from long distances and at considerable ~~expense~~ - and spend quite some time sitting on the floor which many of you are not used to, and you certainly seem to pay attention to what I say. But you must understand that unless there is a particular type of receptivity, words ~~can~~ would only accomplish a very limited purpose which might perhaps arouse your intellectual curiosity and titillate your desire for knowledge but could not open themselves up to surrender their inner meaning.

Now, what is this special type of receptivity? Here again one finds the essential limitation of communication by words. Would it mean anything to you if I said that 'you' have come here to listen to me ~~but~~ but you must listen to me on the basis that the 'you' is totally illusory, that there is really no 'you'

who could listen to the words and get any benefit! Indeed, I must go so far as to ~~say~~ that UNLESS you give up your role of a listener, expecting some benefit out of what you hear, ~~the~~ the words would be mere empty sounds. What really happens is that you prepare yourself to accept the thesis that everything in the universe - and the universe itself - is illusory, ~~but you are not prepared~~ EXCEPT YOURSELF. Now do you see the problem - or is it more a joke ~~#~~ than a problem?!

When - let me not say "if" - you accept this basis for your listening, ~~then~~ that is to say, you give up all concern for a listener wanting to be a "better" individual by listening to the words, hoping to "work" towards a ~~perceptible~~ improvement, then what would happen? Then, in that state of LISTENING, when the listener no longer intrudes, words would ~~be~~ blow up and expose the subtle, inner meaning which the fasting, open mind will grasp and appreciate with deep and instant conviction. And then, will words achieve their fulfilment!